IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 19-27, without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 1, 11, 14, and 16 as follows:

A4 B

1. (Amended) A vector for increasing the copy number of plasmids, comprising a transposable element comprising a moderate or high copy number origin of replication capable of *in vitro* transposition into a target plasmid.

A5 B

9. (Amended) A vector for increasing the copy number of plasmids comprising:

(a) a transposable element comprising a moderate or high copy number origin of replication;

(b) an antibiotic resistance gene; and

(c) a counterselectable marker.

A6 B

11. (Amended) A vector for increasing the copy number of plasmids comprising:

(a) a transposable element comprising a pBR322 origin of replication;

(b) a kanamycin resistance gene; and

(c) a *B. subtilis sacB* gene.

A7 B

14. (Amended) A vector for increasing the copy number of plasmids comprising:

(a) a transposable element comprising a moderate or high copy number origin of replication;

(b) an antibiotic resistance gene; and

A7 (cont'd)

(c) a transcription control sequence.

16. (Amended) A bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) vector comprising a high copy origin of replication flanked by cleavage sites for a restriction enzyme, wherein cleavage of the vector with the restriction enzyme leaves single base extensions for cloning and removes the high copy origin of replication.

A8

Please add the following new Claims:

~~28.~~ A vector for increasing the copy number of plasmids, consisting essentially of a transposable element comprising a moderate or high copy number origin of replication capable of *in vitro* transposition into a target plasmid.

29. The vector of Claim 28, wherein the transposable element comprises a transcription control sequence.

A9

30. The vector of Claim 29, wherein the transcription control sequence is the T7 promoter.

31. The vector of Claim 28, wherein the origin of replication of the colE1 ori.

32. The vector of Claim 28, further consisting essentially of an antibiotic resistance gene.

33. The vector of Claim 32, wherein the antibiotic resistance gene is a kanamycin resistance gene.

34. The vector of Claim 29, further consisting essentially of an antibiotic resistance gene.

35. The vector of Claim 34, wherein the antibiotic resistance gene is a kanamycin resistance gene

A9

36. The vector of Claim 28, further consisting essentially of a counterselectable marker.

37. The vector of Claim 36, wherein the counterselectable marker is the *sacB* gene from *B. subtilis*.

B

38. The vector of Claim 29, further consisting essentially of a counterselectable marker.

39. The vector of Claim 38, wherein the counterselectable marker is the *sacB* gene from *B. subtilis*.

~~40.~~ A vector for increasing the copy number of plasmids, consisting essentially of:

(a) a transposable element comprising a moderate or high copy number origin of replication;

(b) an antibiotic resistance gene; and

(c) a counterselectable marker.

41. The vector of Claim 40, wherein the transposable element further comprises a transcription control sequence.

~~42.~~ A vector for increasing the copy number of plasmids, consisting essentially of:

(a) a transposable element containing a pBR322 origin of replication;

(b) a kanamycin resistance gene; and

(c) a *B. subtilis sacB* gene.

43. The vector of Claim 42, further consisting essentially of a T7 promoter.

44. The vector of Claim 43, which is pTRANS-*SacB*.

~~45.~~ A vector for increasing the copy number of plasmids, consisting essentially of:

(a) a transposable element comprising a moderate or high copy number origin of replication;

(b) an antibiotic resistance gene; and

(c) a transcription control sequence.